

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 17043 261844Z

12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 SCCT-01 SAJ-01 /083 W

----- 046335

R 261514Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7184

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 17043

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR, SY

SUBJECT: PRAVDA COMMENTS ON SYRIAN POLICIES

1. SUMMARY. IN A LENGTHY ARTICLE ENTITLED "FROM DAMASCUS TO THE GOLAN HEIGHTS" (PRAVDA, NOVEMBER 26), POLITICAL COMMENTATOR V. PERESADA TAKES A FEW DIGS AT THE SINAI II ACCORD, IMPLIES PRAISE FOR SYRIA'S STEADFASTNESS IN NOT CONCLUDING A SIMILAR AGREEMENT, AND LAUDS SYRIAN POLICIES AIMED AT RESTORING ARAB UNITY. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING A FEW "COLOR" PARAGRAPHS ON LIFE IN  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 17043 261844Z

EL-KUNEITRA, PERESADA LAUNCHES SOME BARBS AT SINAI

II AND EGYPT. THE AGREEMENT, ACCORDING TO PERESADA, BROKE THE "UNITED FRONT" OF THE ARAB STATES DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE CONFLICT, AND WAS A "SERIOUS BLOW" TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE BECAUSE THE ACCORD "WEAKENED THE SUPPORT" THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT WAS RECEIVING FROM "THE MOST IMPORTANT ARAB GOVERNMENT."

3. IN THE IMMEDIATE POST-SINAI PERIOD, PERESADA CONTINUES, SYRIA WAS UNDER PRESSURE FROM ALL SIDES TO CONCLUDE A SIMILAR AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, THE AUTHOR ADDS, THE SYRIAN LEADERS DECLARED THEIR OPPOSITION TO SEPARATE STEPS WHICH WERE NOT PART OF AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT. PERESADA CLAIMS HE WAS TOLD BY ABDALLA AKHMAR, DEPUTY TO THE BAATH PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY, THAT SYRIA SEES NO POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING THE GOLAN FRONT WITHOUT A SIMULTANEOUS RESOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM THROUGH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PLO. ACCORDING TO PERESADA, AKHMAR SPECIFIED THE CONDITIONS OF A GENUINE SETTLEMENT: (1) ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORY; AND (2) THE SATISFACTION OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE.

4. INTERJECTING HIS OWN OBSERVATIONS, PERESADA STATES THAT IN DAMASCUS HE WAS WITNESS TO THE SYRIAN POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR THE PLO "IN THE STRUGGLE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE." SYRIAN SUPPORT, HE ADDS, EXTENDS TO "MUTUAL EFFORTS IN THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY FIELDS," AND LEADS TO CONCRETE RESULTS SUCH AS THE RECENTLY ADOPTED UNGA RESOLUTIONS ON THE PALESTINIANS.

5. TURNING TO SYRIA'S EFFORTS AIMED AT STRENGTHENING "ARAB SOLIDARITY," PERESADA CITES DAMASCUS' EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH BAGHDAD AND AMMAN. SYRIA'S "PRINCIPLED POSITION," PERESADA CONTINUES, HAS RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM ALGERIA, SOUTH YEMEN, LIBYA, AND "A NUMBER OF OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENTS."

6. SHOWERING KUDOS ON THE KREMLIN, PERESADA CONCLUDES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 17043 261844Z

THAT "THE SYRIAN PRESS" IS STRESSING THE "IMPORTANT SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SOVIET INITIATIVE" CONCERNING THE MEPC, AND CLAIMS THAT "EVERYONE IN SYRIA INVARIABLY SPEAKS WARMLY OF THE SOVIET UNION" AND ITS "PRINCIPLED POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST."

7. COMMENT: CONCEIVABLY, PERESADA'S CLOSE IDENTIFICATION OF SYRIA WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS COULD

BE DESIGNED TO REASSURE THE LATTER OF SYRIAN AND  
SOVIET SUPPORT IN ORDER TO INDUCE SOME SORT OF  
CONCILIATORY GESTURE FROM THE PLO TOWARD ISRAEL WHILE  
ARAFAT IS IN MOSCOW FOR DISCUSSIONS. ON THE OTHER  
HAND, PERESADA'S REMARKS RAISE THE LEVEL OF MOSCOW'S  
PUBLIC PRAISE FOR SYRIA'S APPARENT FOOT-DRAGGING  
CONCERNING GOLAN NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE ARTICLE IS  
IN OUR VIEW MORE LIKELY AIMED AT ASSURING THE SYRIANS AND  
PALESTINIANS OF SOVIET BACKING SHOULD THEY MAINTAIN  
A HARD BARGAINING STANCE. THE ARTICLE COULD ALSO  
MERELY REPRESENT A PRESS BUILDUP SHOULD THE NEWSWEEK  
REPORTS OF AN IMMINENT VISIT BY ASAD TO MOSCOW TURN  
OUT TO BE ACCURATE. END COMMENT.  
STOESSEL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, AGREEMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MOSCOW17043  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750413-0372  
**From:** MOSCOW  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t1975117/aaaaafvt.tel  
**Line Count:** 129  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2003 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRAVDA COMMENTS ON SYRIAN POLICIES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EG, UR, SY, XF, PRAVDA, (PERESADA, V)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006